



## News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &  
Thunder Basin National Grassland  
<http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>

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### North Routt snowmobile trail re-routed

(Steamboat Springs, March 4, 2011) – The Forest Service is moving a popular North Routt snowmobile trail so that it no longer travels through Columbine neighborhoods where residents are concerned about access to their property, noise, exhaust and safety.

“We talked at length with skiers and snowmobilers before making the decision,” said Forest Supervisor Phil Cruz. “Together we worked hard to find middle ground for relocating part of the trail. I think this is the best possible decision to help provide a good quality recreation experience for both groups.”

Forest Service Road 490 goes through private land and through the historic community of Columbine. It is also a groomed snowmobile trail. Following more than two years of public involvement, Hahns Peak/Bears Ears District Ranger Jamie Kingsbury signed a Decision to move 2.5 miles of the snowmobile trail to adjacent Routt National Forest lands so that snowmobilers can continue to get from Steamboat Lake State Park to the forest, bypassing Columbine. About ½ mile of the trail now goes through “Columbine Meadows” an easily accessed area considered high quality for beginner skiers.

“We kept the trail off to the west side of Columbine Meadows as far as possible. Snowmobilers will need to stay on the trail through this area.” said Kingsbury. “We also expanded the voluntary non-motorized area by 126 acres and will work in collaboration with skiers and snowmobilers to provide maps and educational materials to increase awareness of the voluntary boundaries.”

The Decision also removes grooming on FSR 490, which the Forest Service shares with 25 private subdivision landowners. In addition, a new winter trailhead with facilities and a three-acre parking area will be constructed next to Forest Service Road 550, at the intersection with Forest Service Road 413, and trail 1149. “The new parking area and trailhead will reduce parking conflicts at the Quarry Lot and enhance recreation on the forest,” said Kingsbury.

Kingsbury said that the Forest Service looked at several routes, including those proposed by user groups. To read the decision and view the maps, please visit <http://fs.usda.gov/goto/mbr/projects>. Look under “View a listing of all Projects” and scroll down to the Columbine Parking Area and Snowmobile Re-route Decision.

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